



INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SUPPORT (IMS)

Annual report 2013

ims

INTERNATIONAL
MEDIA SUPPORT

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International Media Support (IMS) is a non-profit organisation working to support local media in countries affected by armed conflict, human insecurity and political transition. Reliable and independent media play a key role in ensuring an informed public, holding decision-makers to account, and can help reduce conflict through responsible reporting. To enable the media to fulfill this role, we work to develop safe working environments with sound laws and regulations for media; we build strong institutions that form the backbone of the media sector; and we strengthen and build the professional skills of the media. We do this in close partnership with national and international organisations to ensure greater impact through joint efforts.

For more information visit:

www.internationalmediasupport.org

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Cover photo: Photographers take photos during a clash between opposition protesters and riot police in front of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers in Kyiv, Ukraine, 24 November 2013. Photo: AP/POLFOTO

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Aspiring Afghan photojournalists during an IMS training session on photojournalism.
Photo: Lars Schmidt





FOREWORD 2013

The past year saw latent conflicts erupting in countries like the Central African Republic and South Sudan, ongoing conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan and Myanmar intensifying, and protests bordering on conflict exploding in Ukraine and Venezuela. The negative correlation between freedom of information and conflicts was underscored by *Freedom House's* annual country ratings. Globally, press freedom levels were at their lowest in a decade in 2013.

In the midst of these disturbing developments, geopolitical trends are increasingly restricting the work of both national and international media and human rights organisations. The space is closing for the democracy and human rights agenda, a trend which started in the former Soviet Union, but now radiates from a wide range of countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America in which IMS works. Laws restricting foreign funding for domestic non-governmental organisations and hostility towards those engaging in democracy and rights support are a serious challenge for organisations like IMS in the years to come. Careful, strategic and innovative thinking will be required to overcome these barriers to enable media to support democratic development.

WORKING IN CONFLICT

From the outset, IMS has worked in conflict, helping local journalists and media houses to survive and operate during a crisis while at the same time enabling media to contribute towards peace and stability, and citizens' access to information.

In a year that would become one of the most violent ever for Afghan journalists with the country facing milestone elections and plans for international withdrawal of troops, IMS' countrywide safety mechanism for journalists locally driven by the *Afghan Journalists' Safety Commit-*

tee (AJSC) was source of direct, lifesaving support for journalists across the country. The AJSC again showed its worth as a model for driving a countrywide safety mechanism for journalists by using its countrywide alert text message system to inform journalists quickly about the elections and security threats.

In Ukraine, when violent demonstrations began in November 2013, IMS was also able to respond quickly by way of our local IMS presence and trusted Ukrainian partner *Media Law Institute*, which provided legal counseling to those journalists attacked by security forces.

A BROAD APPROACH TO THE MEDIA SECTOR

Short-term emergency responses during conflict should ideally pave the way for longer term development initiatives that address the main pillars of a well-functioning media sector: an environment with media laws that protect the rights of journalists; strong associations that advocate the rights of media; and professional media content that keeps citizens well-informed. This is also what we characterise as our broad media sector approach. We assess and map the key areas of a country's media sector and then prioritise our work according to where IMS can add value.

The formal registration of Libya's first national media training facility in 2013, the *Libya Media Institute*, is a prime example of this. What began as a short-term media assessment mission in 2011 was followed by two years of persistent efforts to bring together Libyan media partners in a highly polarised environment around the common goal of establishing a national institute for media. The Institute in Tripoli now not only provides a neutral place for media development, but also a space where broader common media challenges can be addressed.



Jesper Højberg, IMS Executive Director. Photo: Rasmus Steen/IMS

CONCERTED EFFORTS

Again in 2013, the formation of partnerships and networks was a fundamental instrument for IMS in addressing the challenges of media globally. In Syria, IMS and more than a dozen international media development organisations are now working to more effectively respond to immediate challenges of media in the country and on a joint strategic vision for media in Syria under the auspices of the *Global Forum for Media Development*. This is happening in close consultation with Syrian media partners that work inside Syria to ensure that the Syrian people has access to reliable information.

In Somalia, the establishment of the country's first network of 18 Somali radios which will work to strengthen the media sector and produce joint programming to promote peace and development was a crucial outcome of efforts to facilitate partnerships amongst local media actors in a fractured country and to ensure access to information.

Framed by the *UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity*, IMS, *Open Society Foundations*, UNESCO and national partners promoted the set-up of national safety mechanisms for journalists to take the place of ad-hoc safety initiatives in Iraq, Pakistan, Nepal, South Sudan, Colombia and Honduras. An in-depth understanding of the political dynamics that influence the media safety environment in each country is key to this work.

MEDIA FREEDOM HIGHLIGHTS

While developments within media freedom in 2013 painted a largely grim picture, there were also highlights brought about through the work of our committed partners.

In Myanmar, the space for freedom of media continued to expand slowly in the midst of democratic reform. In a major achievement, IMS together with local and international partners joined forces to design plans for the country's first journalism school set to open in 2014. In Bhutan, the government's goal to develop a democratic media sector allowed IMS to provide input to the country's draft access to information law together with the *Centre for Law and Democracy*.

I want to thank our partners and colleagues around the world who courageously make change happen while working in the world's most dangerous environments for media. The space for Freedom of Expression may be shrinking, but there is no shortage of those fighting to expand it.


Jesper Højberg
IMS Executive Director

WHERE WE WORK 2013

▣▤ Programme countries and countries with smaller regionally linked projects

These are countries with full-scale IMS programmes, as well as countries in which we have small-scale activities that are tied to our regional engagement in the Middle East and North Africa (striped countries).

Africa	Asia	Eastern Europe, the Caucasus & Central Asia	Latin America	Middle East & North Africa
1 Somalia	3 Afghanistan	7 Azerbaijan	12 Colombia	13 Algeria
2 Zimbabwe	4 China	8 Belarus		14 Bahrain
	5 Myanmar	9 Kyrgyzstan		15 Egypt
	6 Pakistan	10 Tajikistan		16 Iran
		11 Ukraine		17 Iraq
				18 Jordan
				19 Lebanon
				20 Libya
				21 Morocco
				22 Palestine
				23 Syria
				24 Tunisia
				25 Yemen

▣ Thematic countries and countries with short-term engagements

These countries include those in which IMS is engaged primarily with thematic issues such as safety of journalists or investigative journalism, and countries where we have short-term engagements. These countries are:

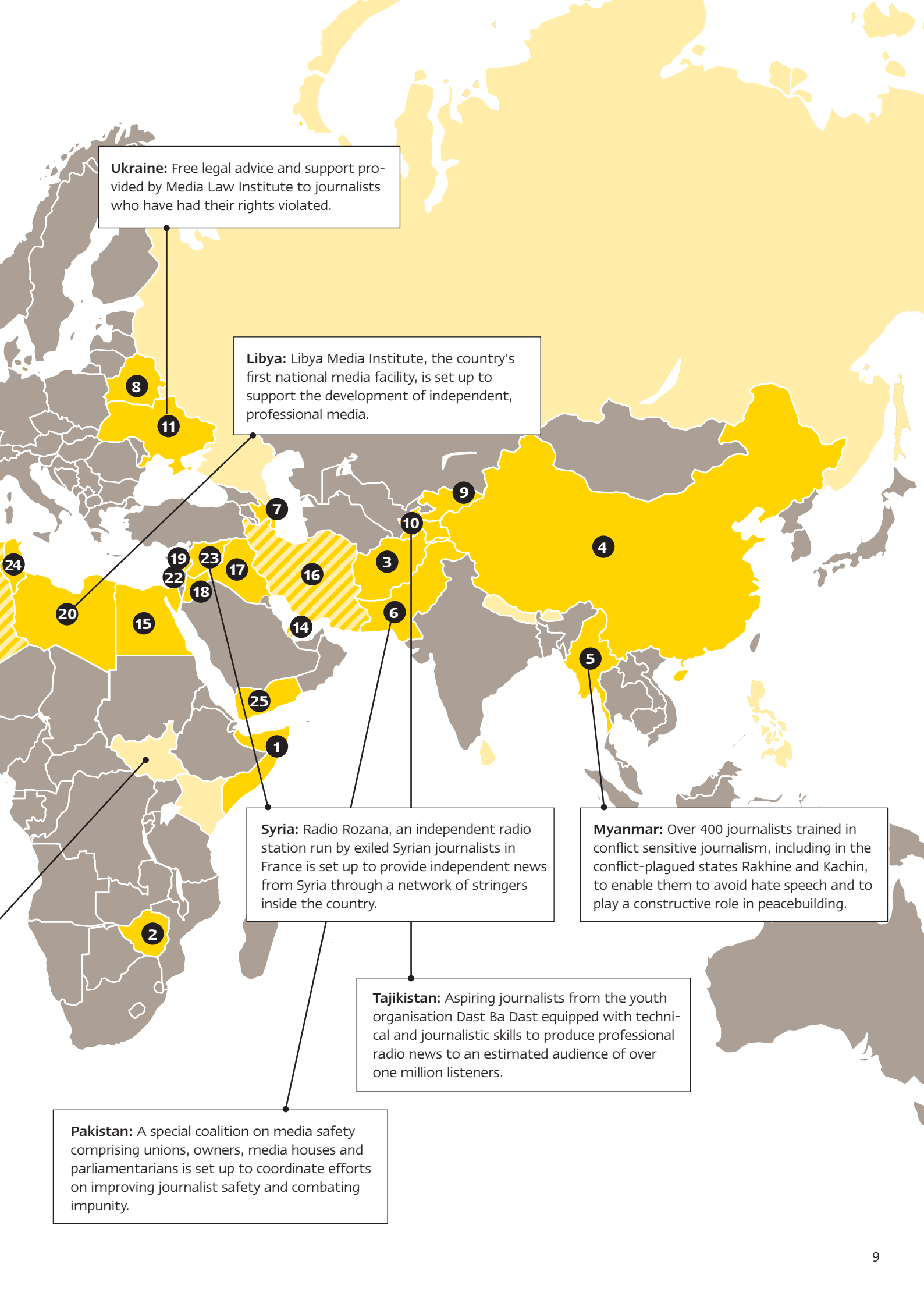
Bhutan, Honduras, Kenya, Mali, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka

Original



Mali: Journalists trained in conflict sensitive journalism to enable them to play a constructive role in peacebuilding and to support intercommunity dialogue.

South Sudan: Journalists and security forces brought together to improve mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities and to enable constructive collaboration between the two groups.



Ukraine: Free legal advice and support provided by Media Law Institute to journalists who have had their rights violated.

Libya: Libya Media Institute, the country's first national media facility, is set up to support the development of independent, professional media.

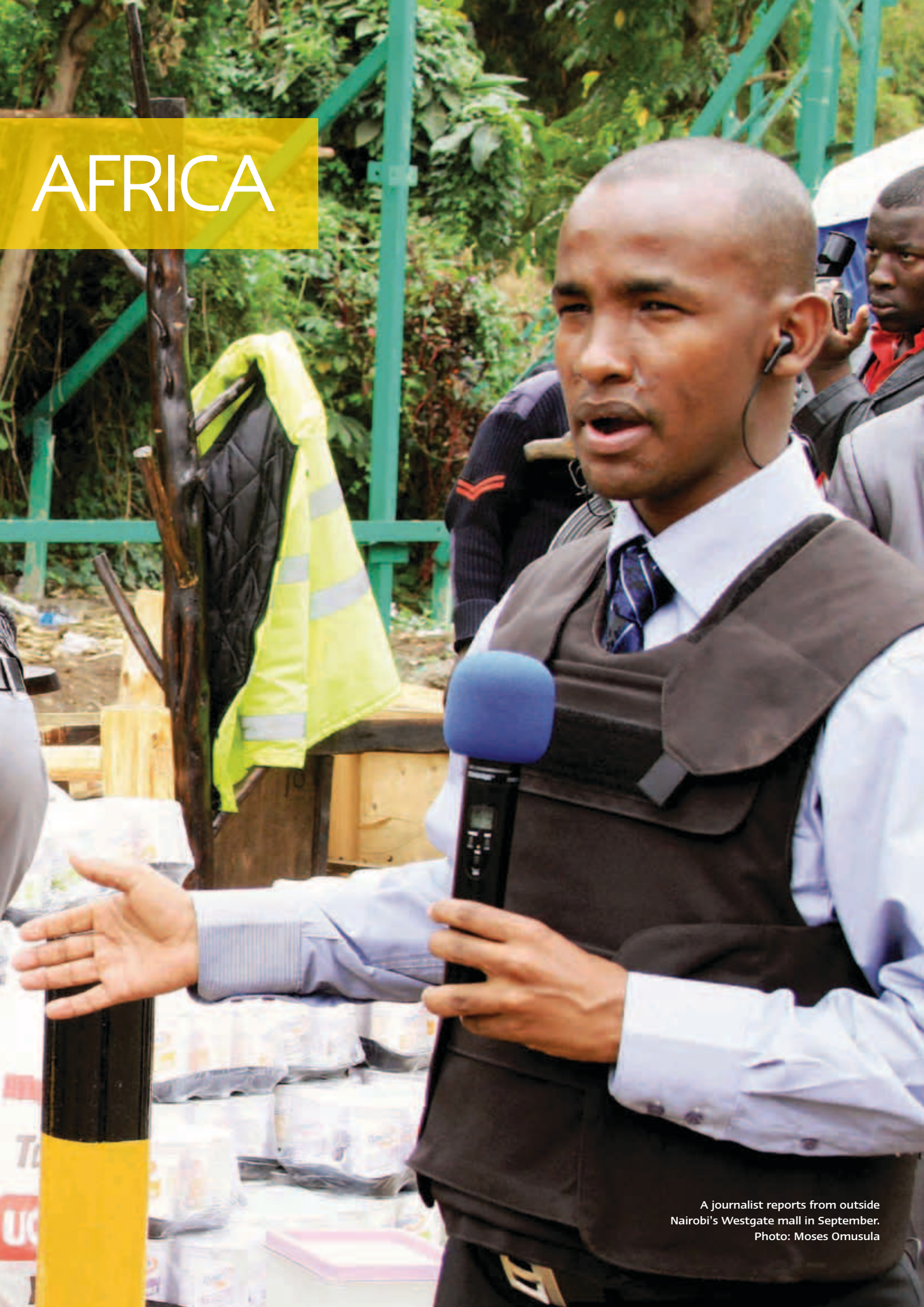
Syria: Radio Rozana, an independent radio station run by exiled Syrian journalists in France is set up to provide independent news from Syria through a network of stringers inside the country.

Myanmar: Over 400 journalists trained in conflict sensitive journalism, including in the conflict-plagued states Rakhine and Kachin, to enable them to avoid hate speech and to play a constructive role in peacebuilding.

Tajikistan: Aspiring journalists from the youth organisation Dast Ba Dast equipped with technical and journalistic skills to produce professional radio news to an estimated audience of over one million listeners.

Pakistan: A special coalition on media safety comprising unions, owners, media houses and parliamentarians is set up to coordinate efforts on improving journalist safety and combating impunity.

AFRICA



A journalist reports from outside Nairobi's Westgate mall in September.
Photo: Moses Omusula

In 2013, the media in several African countries was once again caught in the midst of overwhelming violence and humanitarian crises. In Mali, journalists struggled to overcome the impact of the armed rebellion and subsequent conflict that began in 2012, while an eruption of violence in December in 2013 in South Sudan put a fragile media sector under increasing pressure. In the Central African Republic, the need for humanitarian information escalated rapidly when a devastating conflict intensified towards the end of the year. In Somalia, the need for humanitarian information remained dire despite positive political and security developments, and in neighbouring Kenya, the September Westgate mall attack highlighted once again the need for a holistic and comprehensive approach to journalist safety.

IMS' work across the African continent in 2013 emphasised our commitment to work with media that face some of the most trying challenges in the world. This work takes place in recognition of the fact that to survive and overcome armed conflicts and humanitarian crises, societies need a wide range of assistance. This includes short-term support to the media like broadcasting equipment that enables them to relay reliable information to and from populations in times of crisis, and more long-term comprehensive reinforcement in areas such as media law reform and the institutionalisation of professional practices that will allow the media to act a constructive role in later peacebuilding efforts.

SOMALIA

In 2013, Somalia's journalists and the country's population as a whole continued to suffer the impact of the country's long-running armed conflict and humanitarian crisis. The IMS-supported *Radio Ergo* continued throughout the year to provide the population with indispensable humanitarian information covering everything from disaster mitigation and disease prevention, to livestock prices that empower farmers and pastoralists. *Ergo* also continued to act its key role in bridging a communication gap between Somalis and relief agencies, enabling humanitarian workers to better design their aid interventions.

"Radio Ergo's broadcasts serve as a significant platform for us in order to profile and position humanitarian aid interventions, specific concerns, and general developments regarding

Somalia," said Alexandra Strand Holm, Regional Communications Officer, *Danish Refugee Council*.

Based on direct feedback from listeners calling the radio's new *Freedom Fone* voice message service, *Ergo* expanded its programming to include a weekly segment focusing on the vast Somali diaspora, a drama series on the possible return to home of the huge amounts of internally displaced persons, and a polio vaccination awareness campaign.

"We got rain, the land is green, the livestock is well, and milk is everywhere. I would like the Somali refugees in Kenya to be moved here. We will help them."

An encouraging voice message left on Radio Ergo's Freedom Fone service by a listener in Somalia's northern Cayn region

Together with IMS, *Ergo* also facilitated the setup of a network of 18 Somali radio stations. A first-of-its-kind, the network will work to address the challenges of the Somali media sector by acting with a unified voice on media law issues, strengthening the capacities of journalists and media houses, and producing joint programming to promote peace, stability and development.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

2013 saw the Central African Republic embroiled in a devastating conflict and a growing humanitarian crisis. Intense fighting between the predominantly Muslim Séléka and the mainly Christian anti-balaka militia groups worsened towards the end of the year and in early 2014, with widespread massacres committed by the anti-balaka against Muslim civilians.

With massive security issues, fear resulting in self-censorship, destroyed infrastructure, and distrust between journalists and relief agencies, the Central African media was faced with an almost insurmountable challenge in covering the situation, found an IMS analysis conducted in December 2013 and January 2014. With large parts of the population left with little information on the crisis and with no ways to voice their urgent



A stringer from the IMS-supported Radio Ergo interviews a group of school girls in Beledweyne, Somalia.
Photo: Abdullahi Salad/Radio Ergo

needs, the analysis found a clear need to boost humanitarian information and communication efforts.

SOUTH SUDAN

2013 ended violently in South Sudan when brutal ethnic violence worsened in the Jonglei and Unity states from December onwards and left thousands dead and hundreds of thousands displaced. While the eruption of violence put the already fragile media under severe pressure, 2013 also included the encouraging endorsement of three media bills by the country's parliament in July after years of advocacy and legal input from IMS' local partner, the *Association for Media Development in South Sudan (AMDISS)*. The three bills, which in early 2014 had yet to be passed by President Salva Kiir Mayardit, cover media regulation, access to information and public service broadcasting.

As part of our work under the *UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity*, IMS together with AMDISS and the *Union of Journalists of South Sudan (UJOSS)* brought together journalists and security forces with the aim of enhancing the safety of the media and enabling constructive collaboration between the two groups. Similar initiatives in Iraq, Pakistan, and Colombia have shown that such dialogue-based initiatives help build mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities and pushes the media and security forces to recognise their shared goal of serving the public and of finding common ground in support of peaceful development.

KENYA

Fears that Kenya's March Presidential election would lead to a repeat of the widespread violence of 2007-2008 did not materialise, although sporadic violence did break out in the lead-up to the vote. For the media, 2013 brought with it one of the most repressive pieces of legislation in the country's history. Passed in December, the contentious *Kenya Information and Communication (Amendment) Bill* marked a major setback for press freedom in the country with a new government-controlled regulatory board authorised to impose hefty fines on media houses and journalists.

The killing of 67 people in the Al-Shabaab attack on Nairobi's Westgate mall in September put journalists under both physical threat and emotional distress. At a meeting for editors and journalists convened by the *Media Council of Kenya (MCK)*, editors said their journalists were untrained and unprepared to cover dangerous events like the Westgate siege.

To ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to improving the safety of Kenya's journalists, MCK in collaboration with IMS began in late 2013 the development of a national strategy on the safety of journalists, which will provide rapid responses to urgent requests and also attend to the need for more structural changes in Kenya's media environment. The strategy goes hand-in-hand with a journalist handbook published in 2014 by IMS and MCK on dealing with the psychological impact of traumatic experiences.

“I have become the expert at my radio in covering conflict-related issues. When the editors discuss, they say “give it to Assa, she knows about this”.”

A radio journalist in Mali provides feedback after she took part in an IMS course on conflict sensitive journalism

MALI

Although still marked by a severely fragile security situation and press freedom violations, Mali's media did see some encouraging progress in 2013. This included slight improvements in the safety of journalists and a reopening of radio stations and newspapers closed in 2012 during the conflict in the country's north. Despite this, the media still faced a number of basic hurdles to overcome, including widespread lack of electricity and infrastructure in the north and a press corps unaware of how to cover peace and reconciliation issues.

Against this backdrop, our work in Mali in 2013 sought to enable the media to contribute to peacebuilding efforts and intercommunity dialogue in close collaboration with *Media Foundation for West Africa* and *Panos Institute West Africa*. In April and June, intensive workshops on conflict sensitive journalism and professional content production took place to strengthen the ability of the media to amplify the voices of people affected by the ongoing conflict, and to foster public debate between local communities and the institutions expected to provide for their needs.

Crucially, our work also focused on sharing journalistic content between the north and south of Mali to enable people to gain a better understanding of the conflict's dynamics, and to enable them to overcome communal tension.

From homeless to homeowners

Mohamud Mohamed Abdi and his wife were living in a tiny shack with their seven children in Baidoa in southern Somalia. Disabled through illness, the couple was earning a pitiful existence by sitting in the hot sun breaking rocks into smaller stones for construction. After the IMS-supported *Radio Ergo* aired their story, a group of young people began to raise money to help them.

“The story made us feel sad and we couldn't ignore their suffering,” said Ibrahim Ahmed Ibrahim, one of the young people who contributed funds.

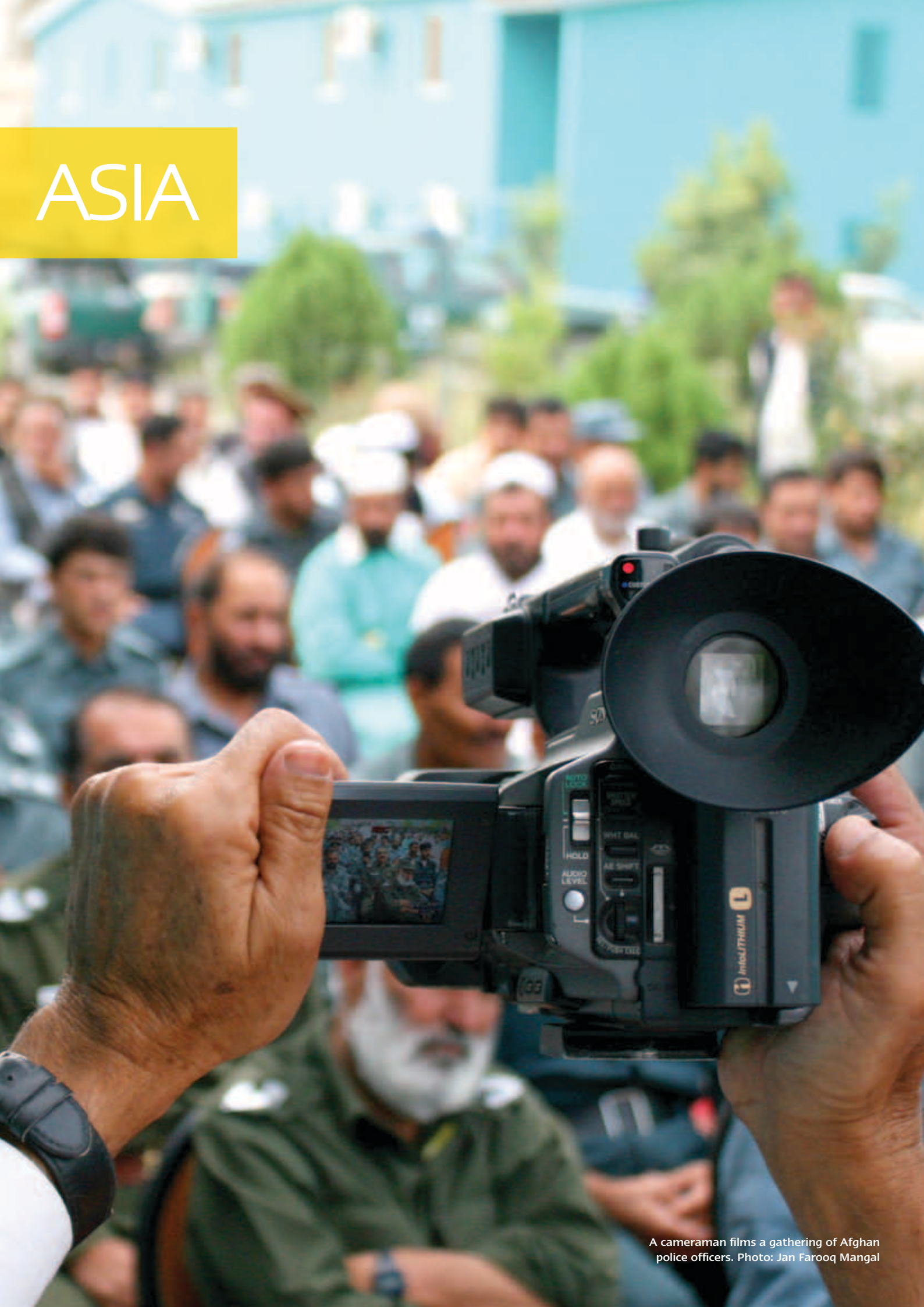
“What we found was that the family lived in an overcrowded, small, makeshift room and some family members often slept outside,” Ibrahim told *Radio Ergo*'s local reporter. “We then contacted local businesses in the community to raise funds and get support.”

The youth group managed to raise almost USD 3,000, and spent it on building a new house with two rooms, a kitchen, and a toilet. Abdi and his family were clearly overwhelmed: “We are very grateful to the youths. They have transformed our lives from being homeless to homeowners.”



A stringer from the IMS-supported *Radio Ergo* interviews Mohamud Mohamed Abdi and his wife in Baidoa, Somalia. Photo: Abdullahi Salad/Radio Ergo

ASIA



A cameraman films a gathering of Afghan police officers. Photo: Jan Farooq Mangal

Ethnic conflict and crucial elections significantly affected media environments in South and Southeast Asia in 2013. The ethnic unrest in Myanmar cast a wider spotlight on Buddhist-Muslim tensions in the South-east Asian region and highlighted the role and behaviour of both traditional and social media in conflict reporting.

In Pakistan, elections in May provided hope for democratic improvements, but the country instead saw journalists sandwiched between the Taliban and other interest groups who threatened media to control information flows. In Afghanistan, the prospect of milestone elections in 2014 and the withdrawal of international troops in 2015, sparked uncertainty and a deteriorating security environment for media and civil society.

Elections in Nepal in November were deemed largely successful, but Nepali media still suffered a spate of intimidations from political parties and youth groups, propagating self-censorship. Bhutan, on the other hand, took positive steps forward in civil and political liberties including in media freedoms following the government's interest in reforming and modernising the media system.

IMS' partnership approach, which focuses on working closely with other likeminded organisations and on aligning our priorities with those of the local media was a common feature throughout our work in South and Southeast Asia in 2013. The *UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity* rolled out in Pakistan and Nepal by IMS, UNESCO, *Open Society Foundations (OSF)* and local partners, was a prime example of this.

MYANMAR

The arrival of Myanmar's first private daily newspapers on the streets of Yangon in April 2013 marked another important milestone in the string of reforms in the country's media sector since 2011. Through partnerships with journalist associations, media workers, ministries and international media development organisations, and reinforced by a strong presence on the ground, IMS focused on media law reform in support of a safe media environment, strengthening institutions that educate and advocate the rights of journalists and professionalising journalistic content and skills.

As the first international organisation in Myanmar, IMS signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cement our cooperation with a range of key players, including the country's newly established

press council, journalist associations and the *Ministry of Information*, committing the signatories to work together on media law reform. Together with the *Centre for Law and Democracy*, IMS thus provided input to all tabled media laws, including the draft *Broadcast Law* and *Public Service Law*. Crucially, Myanmar's first code of ethics for media, was drafted by the *Interim Press Council* with IMS' support.

“The new system has inherited problems from the former political system. We are now rewriting the book of journalism in Myanmar.”

U Thiha Saw

Vice-chairman of Myanmar Journalists' Association

The need to address professionalism in journalism, and ethical standards in particular, was evident in the area of conflict reporting with examples of hate speech fueling existing tensions in conflict-ridden areas. IMS worked to promote a peaceful role of media during conflict and in peace negotiations through support to the *Myanmar Peace Center* which promotes peaceful dialogue. More than 400 journalists were trained in conflict sensitive journalism in 11 different cities, including in the conflict-plagued Rakhine and Kachin states.

In February, the fifth annual *Yangon Photo Festival* showcased some of Myanmar's finest photo journalism work, the result of intensive multimedia photojournalism workshops for aspiring photojournalists organised by IMS in Yangon and in the conflict-ridden parts of the country.

“For some students, portraying life through the lens of a camera has been the first real opportunity to openly express themselves and show sides to Burmese life which have not been documented previously,” said trainer for IMS and curator of the festival, Christophe Loviny. IMS has trained more than 170 photojournalists since 2009, some of whom now work for international agencies such as *Reuters* and *AFP*.

NEPAL

In Nepal, the media climate remained uncertain in 2013, although there were less physical attacks on journalists than in 2012, according to the US-based organisation *Freedom House*.

IMS' efforts focused on building a safer working environment for journalists and working to push forward the *UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity* together with UNESCO and OSF. Tied to this work was IMS' collaboration with the *National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)* of Nepal to support its planned efforts to establish a national mechanism to improve the safety of journalists.

PAKISTAN

Pakistan was the fourth most dangerous country in the world for journalists in 2013. In a year of violent elections and worsening security, IMS focused on improving the capacity of journalists to report professionally and safely in crisis-affected areas and on improving relations between Afghan and Pakistani media.

The twin blasts that killed three journalists in Quetta in January 2013 highlighted the need to further strengthen the safety of journalists in the country. IMS' package of safety activities carried out in partnership with OSF and UNESCO, included research on media safety and legal defence clinics for media lawyers in which they were trained in media law.

"If not for the IMS safety trainings we had in Quetta, more lives would have been lost due to the massive twin blasts in January," said Tahir Ratore of the *Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists*.



Journalists interview a young girl in Peshawar, Pakistan.
Photo: Civic Action Resources

The International Conference on Protection and Safety of Journalists in Islamabad in March brought together senior government members, local media and international groups to launch the *UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity* in Pakistan. The *Pakistan Coalition on Media Safety*, comprising media unions, owners, media houses, and parliamentarians, was established at the meeting to coordinate work on media safety. A joint map tracking and monitoring media attacks has since been set up by the Coalition (<http://mediasafety.pk>) and discussions are ongoing about the appointment of a special prosecutor on media attacks and a legal aid fund for media.

The unstable political relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan, prompted efforts to forge closer ties between journalists working on both sides of the border to improve informed coverage of cross-border issues and mutual understanding. A total of 14 journalist exchanges between the two countries took place facilitated by IMS and led one of Pakistan's largest English-language dailies, *Dawn*, to station a correspondent in Kabul.

AFGHANISTAN

In a year that would become one of the most violent ever for Afghan journalists and with milestone elections ahead in 2014, the value of the IMS-founded, country-wide *Afghan Journalists' Safety Committee (AJSC)* became evermore clear. AJSC monitored violations in 32 out of 34 provinces and provided medical, legal and trauma assistance in 76 cases of journalists in danger. For journalists who work in an environment where they are purposely targeted for their work, AJSC was a source of support across the country.

The comprehensive safety package for journalists set up by IMS, but locally anchored with and run by AJSC included safety training for male and female journalists, practical measures such as a 24-hour hotline to which more than 400 calls from journalists in distress were made in 2013, and a safety fund for journalists in peril. The package also includes facilitating dialogues between government officials, security forces and the Afghan media to improve mutual understanding and focus on the safety of journalists. In 2013, the government set up a *Media Violence Council* to handle violations against media. Although a positive step forward, the Council has yet to really establish its independence.

In preparation for the April 2014 elections, IMS and AJSC held media election "shuras" (round-tables) with Afghan media workers about the process of elections, the roles, and the safety of the media. In addition to this, AJSC set up and tested a countrywide alert system for Afghan media workers which informed media workers by mobile phone text messages and social media about election-related events and threats against journalists in their province. Media workers in turn were provided with the skills to report back to AJSC headquarters from election campaigns around the country.

CHINA

One of the many platforms for exercising Freedom of Expression is documentary filmmaking where attention is given to societal issues that the regular press does not cover. In November, the annual Danish documentary film festival CPH:DOX, a central proponent of the strong Danish tradition for documentary filmmaking, invited four Chinese directors and 10 Chinese documentary films to feature in the festival's special segment on China entitled *Between chaos and control*. IMS facilitated their participation as part of our mandate to promote documentary filmmaking as a platform for expression and alternative voices.

BHUTAN

The promising steps taken by the government of Bhutan in 2013 to move from a state-controlled towards a more democratic media environment was a highlight in the South Asian region, which otherwise primarily encountered setbacks in terms of press freedom. IMS was pleased to assist the government and the *Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)* in designing a three-year media development programme that addresses media regulation, community media outreach, and sustainability of private media. IMS and the *Centre for Law and Democracy* also provided technical advice for the formulation of an Access to Information law, and will continue in an advisory role to support the build-up of a new democratic media sector.



Min Zayar Oo on the campaign trail with Aung San Suu Kyi.
Photo: Pyay Kyaw Myint

The new generation of photo journalists in Myanmar: A time to document history

He started out as an award-winning classical pianist, but sold his piano to buy a camera. A few months later, he had his first international breakthrough and now belongs to the new generation of photojournalists in Myanmar set on documenting history in the country.

Min Zayar Oo is one of the many young photographers who has taken part in IMS-organised workshops in Yangon on photojournalism.

"In 2011 when I began taking photos, I primarily focused on landscape photography," Min Zayar Oo explained. "But I also wanted to take pictures of something more important, more powerful, but didn't know where to start."

At the workshops, students were asked to tell a story through a series of images, combining photos with sound and text. Min Zayar Oo first chose to depict the beauty of giving birth, but instead ended up focusing on the unhygienic conditions in the hospital.

"I always thought a good picture was about technique, and having the best camera. But the workshops taught me that it is not about the camera. It is about the subject, about the message you want to convey with your photos and about ensuring that this message is important for the subject of your pictures."

Depicting the lives of everyday people and the country's ongoing conflicts remains a sensitive undertaking in Myanmar, although things are slowly changing. Since 2009, IMS has trained over 170 photojournalists in the art of telling stories with photos accompanied by text and sound for both digital and traditional media. See some of the amazing photo series on <http://yangonphoto.com>

LIBERTAD DE
EXPRESIÓN
PARA
¿QUIEN?

LATIN AMERICA

A man holds up a sign reading "Freedom of Expression for whom?" in Bogotá, Colombia. Photo: Andrés Monroy Gómez



A cameraman films a group of protesters on 1 May 2013 in Bogotá, Colombia. Photo: Andrés Monroy Gómez

A climate of violence against and intimidation of journalists and media workers persisted in 2013 in Colombia, Honduras and Mexico as the justice systems in all three countries faced increasing exposure for their inability to break down a prevailing culture of impunity in the Latin American region.

From a near failed state in Honduras to a press corps still reeling from state surveillance in Colombia, the unifying factor tying together the regions of Central and South America was a toxic mix of intimidation and persecution of journalists by both organised crime groups and security forces.

Reporters in Colombia, covering the months-long anti-government demonstrations by peasant farmers in northern Catatumbo, were violently targeted by all sides.

In Honduras, allegations of law enforcement engaging in corruption and forming police death squads dogged the media with simultaneous threats by organised crime groups on the rise.

Similar to their Honduran colleagues, journalists in Mexico continued to be targeted, attacked and disappeared as competing drug cartels, law enforcement and the military battled throughout the country. Self-censorship increased as several media outlets sought refuge in this last safety resort.

COLOMBIA

In Colombia, IMS aims to work with media outlets and media support groups to encourage a positive and proactive role for the media in consolidating peace.

To assist local media in addressing the rollout of the peace process, in 2013 IMS developed a new project to support the media's role in promoting conflict reduction and shedding light on the peace process and the road to transition in three high-risk zones.

Based on a possible positive outcome in the peace talks in Havana, the time period of the programme will also involve the implementation phase following the signing of a peace accord between the Colombian government and the FARC. This work will focus on enhancing conflict sensitive journalism reporting by local media outlets and will also involve extensive work with the security forces operating in these areas.

HONDURAS

This safety work will be replicated in Honduras in 2014, where IMS aims to combine safety training and conflict sensitive journalism with a range of media outlets to boost coverage of sensitive topics like drug trafficking, government corruption, and land conflicts through a new investigative journalism programme.

In the last quarter of 2013, as part of the *UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity*, IMS, together with *Open Society Foundations*, pushed forward plans for the new year to establish a new safety fund for journalists in Mexico and to support safety monitoring by local press freedom groups in both Honduras and Mexico.

A photographer takes a photo of a protester in Cairo on 26 January 2013. Photo: Mohamed Azazy (<http://flickr.com/photos/mohamedazazy>), used under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 / Cropped from original



MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Since the uprisings in 2011 triggered major political turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa, protest movements and in some cases, violent conflict, have become a common feature in the region, putting the new-found space to exercise Freedom of Expression under pressure.

Syria and Iraq were submerged in violent conflict rendering them two of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists in 2013, and in Egypt and Libya the situation for media freedom also took a turn for the worse.

In Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Jordan, as well as Egypt, media faced profound challenges in providing populations with access to reliable and diverse information in 2013. Moves to reform media legislation were slow and a concentration of media ownership in the hands of cronies increased, brought on by a tendency of old regime segments to remain influential in media environments alongside new power elites.

These commonalities underscored the importance of IMS' cross-cutting, regional activities in the Middle East and North Africa region to share best practices and forge partnerships between media through networks and our Twinning programme that partners peers across borders.

In 2013, our work continued to focus on improving the building blocks of a well-functioning media sector which include strengthening media environments through media laws that protect the rights of media and measures that provide media safety; supporting institutions that educate and advocate media rights; and professionalising media with a view to securing diversity and balanced content.

EGYPT

The changes in the political roadmap for Egypt in 2013 had a considerable impact on the media environment. Much of the progress achieved in 2011 and 2012 in terms of independent media and Freedom of Expression was halted and the diversity of media voices became scarce and the larger broadcast and print media openly partisan.

The lack of diversity in voices was clearly illustrated in the findings of a *Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies* media monitoring report, which looked at the Egyptian media's coverage in the

run-up to the constitutional referendum in December 2013 and January 2014. The review of some 20 media outlets found that Egypt's media had "deliberately abandoned standards of diversity and balance, leaving no space for opposition of the constitution." The findings were shared with the monitored media as a tool for self-reflection and with a view to improving coverage.

To broaden the diversity of voices in media, IMS worked with *Mada Masr*, a new, promising English-language online portal which became one of the leading sources of independent news and opinion in Egypt for both Egyptian and international audiences.

IMS also worked with *Welad el-Balad*, a network of local newspapers producing news in nine governorates in Egypt, challenging the centralisation of media in the major Egyptian cities and engaging with its local communities.

TUNISIA

Tunisia's media sector did not see any real reforms materialise in 2013. In an effort to advocate media law reform, several Tunisian partner organisations with IMS support established the *Civil Coalition for the Defence of Freedom of Expression* in late April 2013. The body facilitated debates on the Constitution, self-regulation, and attacks against journalists and pushed through significant changes in the draft Constitution.

The systematic documentation of violations committed against media becomes all the more important when the laws that protect the rights of journalists are not in place. With IMS support, the *Tunis Centre for Press Freedom (TCPF)* documented 500 cases of attacks on media across Tunisia in 2013 primarily committed by law enforcement and provided journalists with crucial legal support. In one case, web TV cameraman Mourad Mehrzi was jailed in August 2013 for having filmed a minor assault on a minister during a press conference. A TCPF lawyer ensured that the charges were dropped and Mehrzi was released in October.

SYRIA

In 2013, Syria was the world's most dangerous environment for media to operate in. With media professionals targeted by multiple parties, the population's access to independent and reliable

reporting remained hampered throughout most of 2013 and media was left unable to play a conflict-reducing role to bridge divides and keep people informed. *Radio Rozana* set out to fill this gap.

Set up in Paris in July 2013 with IMS support, *Radio Rozana*, an independent radio station run by exiled Syrian journalists, worked to secure reliable, independent news content from Syria with the help of a strong network of local correspond-



In the studio of the IMS-supported Radio Rozana. Photo: Radio Rozana

ents inside the country. The radio broadcasts talk radio with news and analysis to Syrians inside and outside the country on FM, via satellite and online on rozana.fm six hours a day.

At a time when most media coverage focuses on the unfolding violence, the website *Syria Untold* sheds light on civil society and non-violent

dynamics in Syria with coverage of ongoing civil society movements. The website that IMS has taken part in developing was broadly cited as a source in international, regional and Syrian media in 2013, reflecting the breadth of its audience.

The *Syrian Observer*, an online news source, also contributed to a better understanding of the social, political and economic dynamics at play in Syria in 2013 through its English-language analyses, features and interviews. Its profile database of Syrian political and civil society actors and translated news content produced by Syria's official press and opposition groups placed it on *The Economist's* list of "must-reads" on Syria in 2013.

Towards the end of 2013, the initial lack of information inside Syria was slowly being met by an array of emerging media outlets. This prompted IMS to increase our focus on the quality and reliability of the information released, and on strengthening new media networks that may form the infrastructure of a future media environment in Syria.

IRAQ

The situation went from bad to worse in Iraq in 2013, with the country descending into ethnic sectarian conflict and journalists being consistently targeted for their coverage of the conflict. IMS thus intensified its focus on the safety and legal protection of journalists.



A media market survey being carried out in October 2013 in Baghdad, Iraq. Photo: Yassir Ismaeel



Journalists strike outside the National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists in Tunis to protest against government-imposed restrictions in September 2013. Photo: Tarek Alghorani

Under the auspices of the *UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity*, IMS worked to provide legal protection and safety advice for journalists. Sixty volunteer lawyers and 10 judges established a network to provide legal advice and defence of journalists under pressure or facing charges from authorities. In another effort to promote the safety of journalists, IMS worked with partners to improve the dialogue and mutual understanding between media, authorities and security forces and towards the end of 2013, the foundation was laid for a Memorandum of Understanding regulating the relationship between the country's security forces and journalists.

The *Iraqi Network for Social Media (INSM)*, a network of young bloggers across Iraq coming together despite their different ethnic and religious backgrounds remained a highlight in the divided country. In an environment where women are generally marginalised, the Network increasingly became a space for female bloggers to share their opinions and develop their skills. Following targeted work by IMS to develop the social media skills of female bloggers, a network for female bloggers under the umbrella of INSM was established. In a

parallel setting, a "gender forum" for civil society activists and journalists working to raise awareness of the UN convention against gender discrimination was set up as a result of IMS workshops on the issue of gender discrimination in Iraq.

YEMEN

In Yemen, the overall situation in 2013 continued to be volatile with major humanitarian challenges, and tensions between rivaling political, religious, and regional groups. Although no new media laws were passed in 2013, IMS' partner *Yemen-PAC* followed up on the positive adoption of the *Law on the Right of Access to Information* in 2012 by working with media and civil servants to familiarise them with the rights and practices tied to the new law. A new press law and an audiovisual law are in the pipeline illustrating a positive will to continue media law reform in parliament.

The 10-month long *National Dialogue Conference* in 2013 was a significant milestone in Yemen's transition of power. Over 500 delegates came together from various political and social factions in Yemen to discuss the future of the country. To

enable citizens to take part in the debate, IMS and the Yemeni organisation *Yemen 21 Forum* and 12 media outlets launched a nationwide campaign informing the public through media, events, and ads about National Dialogue issues such as human rights, anticorruption, and female quotas in parliament. Mr. Khaldoon Ahmed, the owner of a local teashop in Aden said that he listened to the ads on the radio:

"I am glad someone is telling us what will happen. But now the question is when it will happen? And will it happen for real?"

LIBYA

In 2013, Libya continued to face huge challenges in the transition from a highly personalised, 'stateless' dictatorship to an institution-based system. One of the hurdles has been the virtual absence of any legitimate, functional, public institutions on which to build the foundation for a new democratic society. Therefore, the formal registration of the *Libya Media Institute* in 2013, Libya's first national media facility, marked an important step for the media sector.

The aim of the Institute is to support the development of independent professional media in Libya, and to provide education and a neutral platform for dialogue between Libyan and international media partners. Since 2011, IMS has been working with partners to ensure broad buy-in to the institute from both local and international media stakeholders in Tripoli and Benghazi.

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

The potential of documentary film to provide a platform for alternative voices and views was illustrated through two internationally acclaimed IMS-supported documentaries: *Return to Homs*, a Syrian/German documentary and *Sepideh*, a Danish/Iranian documentary. As a major achievement for IMS' work in documentary filmmaking, *Sepideh*, which follows a 15-year-old Iranian girl who dreams of becoming an astronaut, was screened publically in Iran at the *Fajr Film Festival* in 2013.

TWINNING

In 2013, IMS' Twinning programme, a partnering of Danish and Arab media professionals, continued setting up new partnerships and promot-

ing mutual understanding. In September, seven Danish and seven Palestinian journalists worked together in groups of two on the West Bank to challenge stereotypical notions of Palestine and its people. One Danish journalist, Gunvor Bjerre, thus reflected upon the five-day intensive visit upon her return:

"The trip changed my perception of the Palestinians as mainly victims, and made it easier to focus on the positive aspects—even though the negative aspects of life were crying out to be written about and documented."



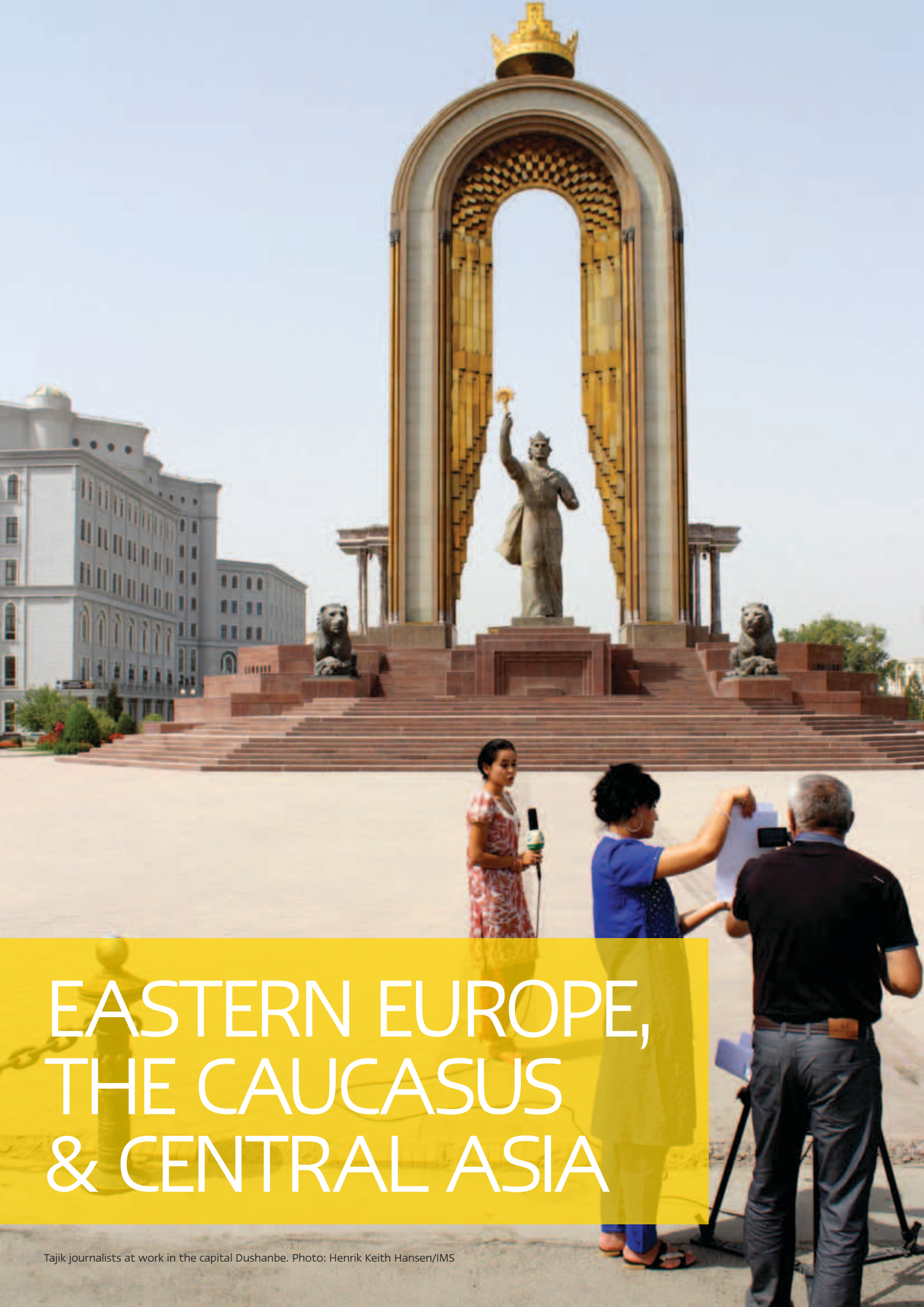
Photo from the documentary film "Return to Homs"

Return to Homs

The documentary film *Return to Homs* by filmmaker Talal Derki follows the journey of two close friends between 2011 and 2013 in the Syrian city of Homs whose lives had been upended by the battle raging in Syria. Nineteen-year-old Basset is the goalkeeper of the Syrian national soccer team. He has also become an iconic singer in the revolution. His songs reflect his dreams of a peaceful liberation from President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Ossama is a 24-year-old media activist and pacifist who wields his camera to capture the revolution. When the army cracks down on Homs the two peaceful protesters finally take up arms. The documentary offers a rare insight into the casualties of conflict; not only of human lives, but of a city destroyed, full of reminders of what once was and of hopes and dreams quashed.

The IMS-supported *Return to Homs* was awarded the prestigious World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at the *Sundance* film festival in January 2014.



EASTERN EUROPE, THE CAUCASUS & CENTRAL ASIA

Relying on subtle yet thoroughly pervasive and effective methods to suppress independent journalists and critical voices, governments in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2013 stepped up their efforts to control the flow of news and information both online and offline.

In Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, presidential elections served to maintain a veneer of public order and legitimacy while authorities in reality suppressed the independent media. In Belarus, the few alternatives to the government-controlled media continued to struggle in a severely restrictive environment, while the independent media in Kyrgyzstan remained fairly free but also somewhat inexperienced. The notable exception to the relative political stability of these countries was Ukraine, where the country's media was put under severe pressure by the violent clashes between authorities and civilians that began in late 2013, and the later crisis between Ukraine and Russia in 2014.

The silencing of independent voices whether through subtle techniques or targeted attacks in 2013 once again highlighted the acute need for extensive media reforms in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Throughout the year, IMS and its partners took real strides to meet this need by enabling journalists to produce high quality content, strengthening future media and civil society leaders, and securing the right and ability of journalists and independent voices to express themselves freely. This work was firmly rooted in close partnerships with local and international media and civil society groups to ensure that it addressed the challenges expressed by local media in the most effective and efficient ways.

Changes to our funding meant that activities in Azerbaijan and Ukraine were halted in late 2012 but were well under way again in June.

AZERBAIJAN

In Azerbaijan, an unrelenting crackdown on Freedom of Expression continued in 2013 in the lead-up to the country's October presidential election. Throughout the year, authorities arrested human rights defenders, imprisoned critical journalists, and adopted laws to further restrict fundamental freedoms.

The crackdown also targeted online freedoms through harassment of online activists and bloggers, through politically motivated surveillance,

and by the government extending criminal defamation provisions to online content. Through a series of fact-based research reports and consultations with high-level officials, IMS' partner, *Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety (IRFS)* spent much of 2013 calling on the international community to put pressure on the government to right its wrongs both online and offline.

In Azerbaijan, as in most other countries, putting pressure on the government by raising international awareness of human rights abuses is an exceedingly difficult exercise because it involves the dynamics of international relations and politics, and because civil society groups and the international community do not always have sufficient leverage at their disposal. Taking on these challenging conditions, IRFS emerged as a strong voice in the struggle for national policy change and as a leading resource for human rights advocates in Azerbaijan. This enabled IRFS to push for the kind of change that IMS aspires to bring about—change that will allow media and citizens to exercise their rights to Freedom of Expression and Access to Information.

UKRAINE

2013 marked the beginning of a decisive period in Ukraine's history. The developments that began with the Euromaidan protests in November turned into violent unrest, and extended into 2014 with the ousting of President Viktor Yanukovich and the subsequent political crisis between Ukraine and Russia. The events had a disastrous impact on the media with scores of journalists assaulted, killed, and silenced through intimidation and harassment.

In response to the overwhelming amount of violent attacks on the media, IMS' partner, *Media Law Institute (MLI)* opened a hotline for journalists who had had their rights violated, offering legal advice and support. MLI also sought to strengthen the safety of journalists by distributing press vests through Ukraine's national journalism groups.

Throughout the year, IMS and MLI worked to further institutionalise and put into practice past years' positive developments in Ukraine's media legislation. This included strengthening the skills of media lawyers to enable them to better protect journalists in court, promoting the 2011 *Law on Access to Public Information*, and enabling journalists to protect themselves through improved understanding of their rights and obligations.



A cameraman attempts to film a demonstration in Baku, Azerbaijan. Photo: IRFS

BELARUS

The critical situation for Freedom of Expression in Belarus saw next to no actual improvements in 2013. Restrictive legislation and economic regulation gave the independent media little possibility to develop or compete with state-owned media, which make up the large majority of available mainstream sources of information. One of the few positive developments that did occur was the Belarusian government's invitation of the *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's* Representative on Freedom of the Media, Dunja Mijatović, who appealed to the Belarusian authorities to end the practice of short-term detention of journalists covering public events, and emphasised the need for a profound reform of the media's legislative framework.

KYRGYZSTAN

Despite political instability, shortcomings in law enforcement and the judiciary and high levels of corruption, Kyrgyzstan remained in 2013 a relatively bright spot among its Central Asian neighbours for Freedom of Expression. The country's reasonably free media environment was unfortunately paired with low professional standards, and some parts of the media community lacked the ability to take active part in the reconciliation of Uzbek and Kyrgyz groups who clashed violently in 2010.

IMS continued its efforts to enable the media to perform such a reconciliatory role by working with *Kloop Media Foundation*, a popular online and FM-based news platform that seeks to

bridge the divide between the two ethnic groups through multilingual news and skills-training of aspiring journalists. While *Kloop* normally buys airtime from radio stations, 2013 offered the encouraging exchange of professional services when the popular *Birinchi Radio* instead of payment requested training in website development from *Kloop's* talented staff. As an isolated development, this was a small refinement of *Kloop's* business model, but also more widely reflects IMS' general aspiration of enabling local media to sustain themselves and engage in fruitful partnerships.

In the same vein as *Kloop's* reconciliation-focused work, IMS and the organisation *Public Association "Journalists"* brought Kyrgyz and Uzbek students together to produce the newspaper *Danek*. Distributed across schools in the city of Osh, where the 2010 clashes took place, the paper sought to educate budding journalists and students from an early age about Kyrgyz and Uzbek cultural values to foster a better understanding between the two groups.

TAJIKISTAN

In Tajikistan, President Emomali Rahmon was re-elected with an exceedingly comfortable margin to a fourth term in office in November. With a widening crackdown on Freedom of Expression in the run-up to the election, independent media faced growing difficulties in providing voters with

adequate information to enable them to cast their ballots in a meaningful way.

IMS worked with its partners to ensure that the little available room for the independent media to cover the electoral process was used to bring attention to voting irregularities and to educate voters on the programmes of the political candidates.

Beyond the work connected to the election, IMS also continued its collaboration with the youth organisation *Dast ba Dast* (Hand in Hand), which provides young people with the skills to produce professional radio news. In addition to the immediate success of reaching an estimated audience of over one million listeners in 2013, the aspiring journalists also benefited from strengthened leadership skills enabling them to take more active part in improving their own lives and local environments.

In a similarly encouraging way, a select group of representatives from non-governmental organisations took part in a summer school in August to enhance their skills in basic journalism and social media use. Organised by the Dushanbe-based *ICT Centre* and *The Independent School of Journalism*, the school paved the way for the online network *Youth Media Support*, and enabled participants to carry out their own trainings, passing on their skills to their peers so that they may be developed further in a locally driven manner.



A young Kyrgyz journalist from Kloop Media Foundation behind the microphone. Photo: Henrik Keith Hansen/IMS



Investigative journalist Hanan Khandakji presents her documentary *Behind the Walls of Silence* at ARIJ's annual conference in December. Her investigation uncovered the abuse of disabled kids in private nurseries in Jordan. Photo: ARIJ

INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Investigative journalism is crucial to holding those in power to account and enabling media to fulfil their watchdog role in society. Under challenging circumstances, IMS-supported investigative journalism networks worked to boost the practice of investigative journalism through workshops and mentoring programmes, providing grants for investigations and institutionalising investigative journalism through the development of university curricula and investigative journalism units in media houses.

In many ways, 2013 marked the beginning of a new golden age for investigative journalism. The Edward Snowden mass surveillance disclosures, past years' mass information leaks from WikiLeaks, and the ensuing need to find new methods to process and safeguard the information led to new examples of digital cooperation between media outlets globally.

This was one of the conclusions drawn at the eighth *Global Conference for Investigative Journalism* in Rio in October 2013. Here, more than 45 journalists from IMS-supported investigative journalism programmes in the Arab world, Russia, Ukraine and China took part alongside other investigative journalists from 90 countries.

"It is important to know that you are not alone out there, that we stand together as a team," said Russian journalist Alisa Kustikova, a coordinator for the *SCOOP Russia* programme, about taking part in the *Global Conference for Investigative Journalism*.

SCOOP RUSSIA

In a challenging climate for critical media there is indeed strength in knowing that you are not alone. The *SCOOP Russia* network provides investigative journalists with the possibility of strengthening their professional skills and connecting with peers inside and outside the country. Seventeen journalistic investigations were carried out in 2013 under the auspices of *SCOOP Russia* which is established in cooperation with *Fojo Media Institute*, IMS and the *Danish Association of Investigative Journalists (FUJ)*.

One investigation into the failure of local authorities to provide adequate supplies of state-subsidised medicine to fight serious diseases such as cancer, contributed to the resignation of the Minister of Health in Kaliningrad.

SCOOP UKRAINE

In Ukraine, the events that began with former President Yanukovich's failure to sign the EU Association Agreement in November 2013, prompted what is likely to become one of the most famous investigative journalism projects in Ukraine's history. Supported by *SCOOP*, *Yanukovich Leaks* got underway in February 2014 when divers found nearly 200 folders with incriminating documents about the former President in a lake at his residence. Oleg Khomenok, *SCOOP* Coordinator in Ukraine and one of the driving forces behind the team of journalists working on *Yanukovich Leaks* said:

"This is the result of 10 years of SCOOP in Ukraine. SCOOP has supported journalists that have gone on to create a network of journalists with skills and knowledge who can cooperate on this task."

The *SCOOP Ukraine* programme supported 12 journalistic investigations in 2013. One investigation revealed that the Minister for Social Affairs, Natalia Karolevska, had lied about her academic merits and faked her diplomas. The investigation will be followed by an official investigation into her academic merits.

SCOOP CENTRAL ASIA

Investigative journalism is slowly taking root in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan where *SCOOP Central Asia* works with journalists despite a very restrictive environment for media. Fifteen investigations on issues such as child trafficking, drugs, virginity bride practices and black market education were carried out under the auspices of *SCOOP Central Asia*, bringing to light sensitive issues and fostering public debate.

One major achievement of the programme has been enabling transnational cooperation on investigations. Journalists from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russia worked together to shed light on the trafficking of children across borders in the region. The investigation found that school girls and boys from Kyrgyzstan were being taken to Kazakhstan as farm labour, nurses, or prostitutes. Children from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan suffered the same destiny, being taken to work in southern Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan or Russia.

ARAB REPORTERS FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM (ARIJ)

In a year where press freedom levels declined across the Arab region, ARIJ's efforts to build the skills of individual journalists, coaches and media institutions in investigative journalism were heavily in demand, working in six out of nine Arab countries. The flagship network for investigative journalism in the Middle East and North Africa co-founded by IMS, helped to set up five in-house investigative units in newsrooms in Yemen, Lebanon and Palestine to institutionalise investigative journalism in media houses. ARIJ also supported 20 investigations by journalists from Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia, Bahrain, Syria and Egypt on issues such as labour conditions, environmental hazards, education and corruption.

In one of these investigations, Hanan Zbeis, a female Tunisian journalist, went undercover with a hidden camera for three weeks to reveal the way in which unregulated Quranic preschools are advocating a very conservative form of religious education for children as young as three. In these preschools, children were not allowed to draw faces with eyes and were forced to sit still for up to four hours reciting the Quran. Zbeis' story prompted a public debate in Tunisia about the abuse of the educational system by religious groups to promote Islam.

With the help of IMS and ARIJ, Yemen's first network for investigative journalists was established in 2013. ARIJ also worked with individual media outlets in Yemen to set up in-house investigative units, organised specialised training for Yemeni media workers, and enabled *University of Sana'a's College of Mass Communication* to introduce investigative journalism into its curriculum.

In a bid to include investigative journalism in university education, 48 media professors from across the Middle East and North Africa region were trained in the *ARIJ Manual for Investigative Journalism* as a basis for a new investigative journalism curriculum which can be used in universities across the region. In addition to this, more than 50 Arab journalists received multimedia training by ARIJ, enabling them to publish their material in both broadcast, online, and print media.

NETWORK OF IRAQI REPORTERS FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM (NIRIJ)

For the third year in a row, the talented journalists from NIRIJ won the regional award for the best investigative report in the Arab world at the annual ARIJ conference in December. This was a major achievement by journalists working in one of the world's most dangerous environments for journalists. The investigation found that Iraqi MPs were each being awarded half a billion US dollars in privileges annually for each four year parliamentary cycle. The story was published in more than 30 Iraqi newspapers and prompted a public outcry. Eleven NIRIJ investigations were published in 2013.

In September, NIRIJ also published the second edition of the first and only magazine in Iraq that deals with investigative journalism.



Participants at the 2nd Conference on Media Development in Myanmar in May. Photo: IMS

PARTNERSHIPS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT

At the very core of IMS lies our commitment to work in close partnership with national, regional, and international partners. We take this approach because development assistance is most effective and efficient when aligned with the priorities of the media sectors with which we work, and when it is carried out in harmonisation with what others are doing. In 2013, our partners and we thus jointly initiated and continued a range of efforts to coordinate our work for the future.

Throughout the year, IMS, *Open Society Foundations (OSF)*, UNESCO, and national partners, continued a series of joint efforts under the umbrella of the *UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity*. In Pakistan, this included the push for the establishment of a special public prosecutor to combat impunity and the setting up of a special coalition to coordinate the work to improve journalists' safety (see page 16) at a conference in Islamabad in March. In Iraq, IMS and our partners laid the groundwork for two ambitious agreements regulating the relationship between the media community and security forces. IMS, OSF, and UNESCO are also jointly implementing a

part of the Plan of Action in Nepal, South Sudan, Mexico, and Honduras.

In Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, IMS organised meetings for national media organisations and international donors to allow the two groups to introduce their respective areas of work and find possible complementarities. In Kyrgyzstan, meetings in April and October served as a first step to coordinate media development in the country, with research presentations on the Kyrgyz media sector, and project pitches from local media NGOs and media outlets seeking to gather support for new ideas. In Tajikistan, a similar set-up provided international organisations and local media with an opportunity to share their ideas for improving the current state of the country's hard-pressed media sector.

In Ukraine, the stark deterioration in journalists' safety brought on by violent clashes in late 2013 and early 2014, led IMS and 10 international and national media groups to visit Kyiv in February 2014 to show support for the country's besieged media. The partnership group found clear evidence through eyewitness accounts and testi-



Hamid Mir, Pakistani journalist and news anchor, at the International Conference on Protection and Safety of Journalists in March in Islamabad, Pakistan.
Photo: Aurangzaib Khan

monies of journalists being directly targeted and attacked because of their work.

In Myanmar, IMS and a range of other international media development groups and national media organisations have been committed to share best practices and identify common challenges since the country's extensive political reforms began in 2011. In May, IMS and a broad representation of Myanmar media, government institutions, civil society organisations, and international media development groups met for the second annual *Conference on Media Development* to come up with a set of practical recommendations for the future development of the country's media.

In Zimbabwe, representatives from across the media sector came together with international media development organisations and donors to continue their long-running efforts to strategise around their work to better the conditions for independent, professional journalism in the country.

In Iraq, another country in massive need of coordinated efforts in support of the media, IMS organised two conferences for international development organisations and local media in 2013. Taking place in March and October, the meetings sought to find common ground among international groups and local media with a view to coordinate activities and work for a shared vision for the future of the Iraqi media sector.

In Syria, the need for coordination of support to the country's beleaguered media prompted IMS

and the Netherlands-based *Free Press Unlimited* to convene a meeting in June in Copenhagen within the framework of the *Global Forum for Media Development*. This and a second meeting in Bonn hosted by the Germany-based *Deutsche Welle*, served as a first step in establishing a strategic vision for the future of Syrian media and the practical steps needed to ensure its realisation.

In addition to IMS' commitment to making sure that our work takes place in coordination with other international media development groups and in partnership with local media, we also work to connect local media organisations with one another to ensure optimal sharing of experiences and best practices. This includes helping to build networks of media outlets like Somalia's *Network 2013* (see page 11), which can serve as a unified platform for advocacy, and encouraging bilateral partnerships between individual organisations.

“By working together we can make better use of each other's expertise and create synergies that allow for improved impact.”

Jesper Højberg
IMS Executive Director

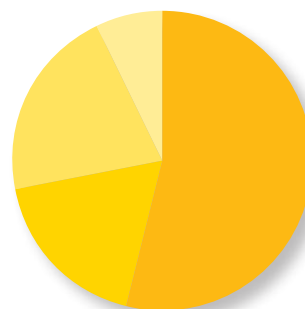
In Yemen, as a first step towards enabling local organisations to network and set up bilateral partnerships, IMS brought together our current partners to identify some of the common challenges they are grappling with. By outlining their goals, plans, and contributions to the media sector, the seven partner organisations laid the ground for future cooperation and in some cases entered into new agreements with each other.

On a regional level in the Middle East and North Africa, IMS and the Morocco-based *Forum des Alternatives Maroc* in November brought together human rights defenders, legal experts, academics, and representatives from journalist groups across the region to enable them to share experiences and to foster new partnerships in the area of media regulatory reform. Participants have since then begun devising possible plans for future joint advocacy efforts across the region and in individual countries, and plan to establish a set of minimum standards in areas such as codes of ethics, and regulatory and legal issues.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2013

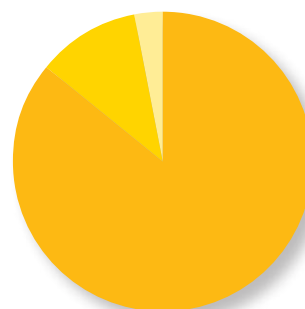
FUNDING

	EUR	%
■ Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassies and Danida	7,028,096	54%
■ Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassies and Sida	2,347,947	18%
■ Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassies and Norad	2,738,655	21%
■ Other donors	962,840	7%
■ Other income & funding	2,205	0%
Total	13,079,741	100%



EXPENDITURES

	EUR	%
■ Activities	11,311,967	86%
■ Cost of doing business	1,429,057	11%
■ Development & other activities	338,718	3%
Total	13,079,741	100%





IMS Board members, December 2013. Photo: Rasmus Steen/IMS

IMS BOARD MEMBERS 2013

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Mr. Edetaen Ojo

Executive Director, Media Rights Agenda (Nigeria)

Mr. Holger Rosendal

Head of Legal Department, The Association of Danish Media (Denmark)

ACRONYMS

AFP	Agence France-Presse
AJSC	Afghan Journalists' Safety Committee
AMDISS	Association for Media Development in South Sudan
ARIJ	Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism
FARC	The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FUJ	Foreningen for Undersøgende Journalistik
IMS	International Media Support
INSM	Iraqi Network for Social Media
IRFS	Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety
MCK	Media Council of Kenya
MLI	Media Law Institute
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIRIJ	Network of Iraqi Reporters for Investigative Journalism
OSF	Open Society Foundations
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
TCPF	Tunis Centre for Press Freedom
UJOSS	Union of Journalists of South Sudan
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
YemenPAC	Yemeni Parliamentarians Against Corruption

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